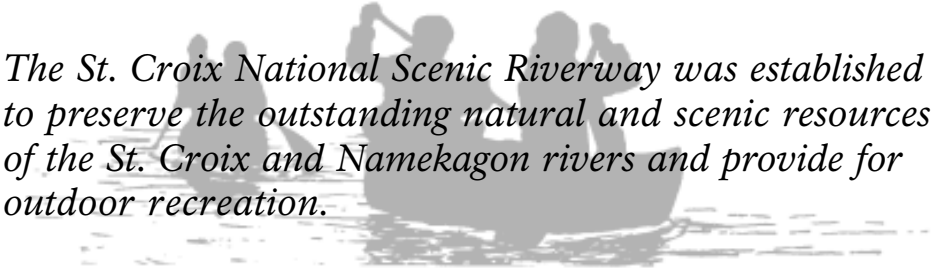




## River Section Descriptions



*The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway was established to preserve the outstanding natural and scenic resources of the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers and provide for outdoor recreation.*

### Namekagon River

The Namekagon River varies from an intimate cold-water trout stream, closed in by a predominantly coniferous forest, to a slow-moving body of water which flows through marsh and swamp land. A narrow, twisting river, it is best navigated by canoe or kayak.

#### Namekagon Dam to Hayward

A canoeist on this stretch can expect a two-day trip with a mixture of stream and lake environment, as well as several rapids. The river is intimate and narrow. The best canoeing is during May and June.\* There are few campsites in this stretch.

#### Hayward to Trego

This section is a two-day trip; the river is relatively narrow, has a good gradient, some rapids and generally a good water level. This section is characterized by more development. There are a moderate number of campsites.

#### County K Landing to Riverside

This stretch is a popular weekend trip. The river is narrow with steep sand banks, and provides a primitive setting. Many campsites are located along this stretch.

### St. Croix River

The St. Croix River changes from narrow to broad and shallow to deep, providing many recreational experiences. Canoes or kayaks are recommended on the upper section, canoes, kayaks, and small fishing boats use the middle section, and motorized boats, sailboats, canoes, and kayaks frequent the lower section.

#### Gordon Dam to Riverside

This two-day trip is best done in the spring.\* Canoeists should have some previous experience with rapids. Campsites are infrequent.

#### Riverside to Highway 70

Riverside to Nelsons Landing is a two-day trip and features good, relatively easy canoeing throughout the season. The river flows through a wide valley with low banks and many islands. Campsites are infrequent, except in St. Croix State Park. The stretch from Nelsons Landing to Highway 70 is a one-day trip along some of the fastest water on the St. Croix. Several sets of rapids above the confluence of the Snake River are rated as Class I (moving water with few riffles and small waves). In periods of high water, the difficulty rating is higher.

#### Highway 70 to Highway 8

This section can be canoed in a two to three-day leisurely trip. The river is wide and slow moving. Wild River State Park (Minnesota) is located near Nevers Dam. The dam at St. Croix Falls must be portaged. A 1 1/4-mile portage around the dam starts at Lions Club Park on the Minnesota side.

#### Hwy 8 to Marine-on-St. Croix

The river is characterized by high bluffs and numerous back channels with no rapids. One or two-day trips are possible. Canoeing and boating conditions are good to excellent in the main channel at most water levels; however, back channels are frequently inaccessible in periods of low water. Special rules govern the speed and movement of motor boats from Taylors Falls to Stillwater. Copies of rules are available at the St. Croix River Visitor Center or at [www.nps.gov/sacn](http://www.nps.gov/sacn).

#### Marine-on-St. Croix to Boomsite

This section of the river is used primarily by motor boats. Eight “slow--no wake” zones exist here. For the section from Arcola to north of Stillwater, water skiing is PROHIBITED Saturdays, Sundays and on holidays after noon, due to the amount of boat traffic that is encountered. ***A restriction for boats heading upstream at the High Bridge, river mile 28.5, is in place to control the spread of zebra mussels.***

\*Water levels are typically higher in spring, dropping during the summer with some shallow stretches. Rapids along the Riverway are rated Class I, but high water makes rapids more dangerous and can raise difficulty to Class II or III. Inquire at Riverway visitor centers for current conditions, or check the Riverway website: [www.nps.gov/sacn](http://www.nps.gov/sacn). Average travel time by canoe: three miles/hour or 15 miles/day.

## Camping

National Park Service (NPS) shoreline campsites are primitive, and only accommodate tent camping. State and private campgrounds in the area offer vehicle camping and more facilities. Motels, cabins and resorts are also located in the vicinity of the Riverway. NPS campsites are mainly accessible by water; there are a few sites accessible by parking the vehicle and carrying equipment in. Upstream of the hydroelectric dam (St. Croix Falls/Taylor's Falls), camping is permitted only in designated sites. A three-night-per-site limit is enforced. A time limit of seven nights per site exists downstream of the hydroelectric dam, where there are camping zones. More camping information is available on the Riverway website: [www.nps.gov/sacn](http://www.nps.gov/sacn) or at any Riverway visitor center.

## Tourist Information

<b>In Minnesota contact:</b> Department of Natural Resources Information Center 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155-4040 (888) 646-6367 <a href="http://www.dnr.state.mn.us">www.dnr.state.mn.us</a>	<b>In Wisconsin contact:</b> Bureau of Parks and Recreation P.O. Box 7921 101 S. Webster St. Madison, WI 53707 (608) 266-2181 <a href="http://www.dnr.state.wi.us">www.dnr.state.wi.us</a>
Minnesota Office of Tourism #100 Metro Square, 121 7th Place E. St. Paul, MN 55101-2146 (800) 657-3700 <a href="http://www.exploreminnesota.com">www.exploreminnesota.com</a>	Wisconsin Division of Tourism 201 W. Washington Ave. Madison, WI 53703 (800) 372-2737 Local (608) 266-2161 <a href="http://www.travelwisconsin.com">www.travelwisconsin.com</a>

## Fishing

Good trout fishing exists on the Namekagon River above Hayward, WI. A variety of warm-water fish are caught in the remaining areas of the Riverway, including smallmouth bass, muskellunge, walleye and catfish. Either a Minnesota or Wisconsin fishing license is required, depending on where you fish. The St. Croix is a state boundary river and is referred to specifically in Minnesota and Wisconsin fishing regulations booklets. You can pick up copies of state fishing regulation booklets at Riverway visitor centers, or download copies from state Department of Natural Resources websites: [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us) or [www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us).

## Canoe and Kayak Rentals

Canoe and kayak rentals are available from private outfitting services. Businesses operating on the Riverway must have a permit. A listing of businesses with permits is available on the Riverway website: [www.nps.gov/sacn](http://www.nps.gov/sacn). Shuttle services may be included or charged in addition to the rental fee. Inner tube rentals are also available.

## Caring For Your River

- ◆ Leave no evidence of your presence by practicing low impact use.
- ◆ Carry out your trash.
- ◆ Glass beverage containers are prohibited on lands and waters within the Riverway.
- ◆ If toilets are not available, bury human waste 6-inches deep, 100-feet from river, streams and campsites.
- ◆ Keep ALL soaps (even biodegradable) away from the river.
- ◆ Help prevent erosion--stay off sand banks.
- ◆ Use a stove when possible. Firewood is scarce and often wet. Dry conditions may prohibit open fires. Cutting of live trees is prohibited.
- ◆ Dead and down wood may be gathered, **except** from islands. Use fire rings and douse fires thoroughly before you leave the campsite.
- ◆ ALL mussels/clams and empty shells are protected. Do not disturb them.

## Be Safe--Look Out For...

- ◆ Overhanging or downed trees--they can overturn a canoe, kayak or inner tube and trap river users underwater.
- ◆ Sunburn--use sunscreen even on cloudy days.
- ◆ Ticks--learn the symptoms of Lyme Disease.
- ◆ Poison Ivy--common at woods edge (three shiny, large toothed leaves).
- ◆ Mosquitoes--bring repellent or netting.
- ◆ Safety - -wearable life jackets are required for each person on board. Children under 13 years old must wear a life jacket when your vessel is moving.
- ◆ Valuables--lock your vehicles and keep valuables out of sight.

